

What is claimed is:

1. A method for constructing an expression library containing a gene that is toxic to bacteria, comprising the steps of:

(a) isolating genomic DNA from a culture of cells of a first bacterium, wherein said genomic DNA contains a gene that is toxic to a second bacterium;

(b) partially digesting said genomic DNA to produce genetic inserts, wherein at least one of said genetic inserts contains a gene that is toxic to said second bacterium;

(c) cloning said genetic inserts into a cloning vector;

(d) ligating together, under suitable ligation conditions, said genetic inserts and said cloning vector, to produce ligation products;

(e) transforming said ligation products directly into yeast; and

(f) amplifying said ligation products in said yeast.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first bacterium is *Bacillus subtilis*.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the genomic DNA is chromosomal DNA.

5. An expression library constructed according to the method of Claim 1.

6. A method for screening for a gene that is toxic to bacteria, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining an expression library made in accordance with the method of Claim 1; and

(b) screening said expression library for a gene that is toxic to bacteria.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said expression library is screened using a mating strategy.

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